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New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora
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POTAMOGETON OBTUSIFOLIUS **BLUNT LEAVED PONDWEED**

Blunt-leaved Pondweed is an aquatic, rhizomatous perennial with slender, submergent, or floating stems that are up to 100 cm long. The leaves are linear, 3-10 cm long, and 2-4 mm wide, each with a small round gland on either side at the base. There is a white-membranous leaf stipule that surrounds the stem above the point where the leaf diverges. Foliage is glabrous. The minute flowers are borne on long-stalked, narrow, interrupted spikes in the axils of the upper leaves. The flowers consist only of the stamens and an ovary; there are no petals or sepals. The achene is oval in outline, 3-4 mm long, and compressed with a keel on the outer edge. Mature fruit in late July-August.

This species is distinguished from other narrow-leaved *POTAMOGETON* species by a combination of the membranous rather than fibrillous stipules, presence of the pair of glands at the base of leaves, and achene dimensions. A hand lens or microscope and technical key are needed for positive identification.